

Some ACCOUNT of the Divisions at the Court of St. Germain: With the Examination and Displacing of the Earl of Melford, for betraying the late King James, &c.

1694

**U**Pon the 30 day of May last, there hapned a very hot Dispute in the late King's Council at St. Germain: some whereof having impeached my Lord Melford of holding Correspondence with the late Kings Enemies in *England* and *Scotland*, and with giving pernicious Counsel to the late King, and betraying his Secrets; for Justification of the latter part of the Charge my Lord Griffen produced a Letter, which he intercepted, written by my Lord Melford, and directed to a Friend of his in *England*; which said Letter imported all the Private Transactions, then under Consideration, tending to the Restoration of the late King: The said Letter being produced as aforesaid, all there present asserted it to be my Lord Melford's own Hand-writing. My Lord Melford being withdrawn from the Council, during the Examination of the said Letter, after the Debates were over, he was called into the Council-room, (the late King then present) where he had several Questions of Importance put to him; some he gave positive Answer unto, but to the Matters of Fact he seemed to evade all, but could not positively deny the said intercepted Letter to be his own. And being asked the Question, *What he meant to do by giving such Intelligence to the King's Enemies, of Matters of so high and great Importance*: He Answered, *That he held no Correspondence with any in England or Scotland, but with the late King's Consent*. The late Lord Chief Justice Herbert told him, That that was not the Answer to the Question put, and desired him to Answer directly to the leading Question: But still my Lord Melford seem'd to avoid the direct Answer, and said, *There was no Reason to suspect his Integrity, considering how much he and his Brother were both Sufferers on the late King's Account*. To which my Lord Middleton said, That neither my Lord Melford, nor his Brother, suffered on the late King's Account, but that it was their own foul Practices against the Laws of *Scotland* that so much brought them in Contempt with the People there; Whereas, says he, had your Brother and your Lordship executed Justice impartially, it would have been better with the King's Interest in *Scotland* than it is; But as your Brother and You have violated the Law, all your Crimes are by the People there justly imputed to the King: So that your following the King became a force put upon your Lordship, especially when you knew that you could not withstand the Weight of the Charge prepared for your Lordship's Prosecution according to the Laws of *Scotland*. But my Lord, says Middleton, All this Harangue is remote of the Answer touching the Contents of the intercepted Letter: Ay, says the late Lord Chief Justice Herbert, it was hitherto imputed to the few Protestants here about the King, that they have held Correspondence with *England*; but now, my Lord, I doubt it will be fixed another way. The late King seem'd very much disgusted, saying, *That he was the most unfortunate Prince in the World, and the most mistaken in those he took for his Friends; and, with an angry countenance, required my Lord Melford to answer, and tell what he meant by the said Letter*. Then my Lord Melford said, *That he had Orders from the Court of France to anticipate all the Measures proposed by the Subjects of England to the late King: And that the King of France would not let the late Kings Subjects have any share in the late Kings Restoration, but that he would do it entirely himself, or else it should not be done at all*. Whereupon the late King said, with great Impatience, that it concerned himself now to look about him as much as ever before, and that he did not understand how that his own Secretary durst meddle so high without his Orders. The Council all looked upon one another, and said not a word. My Lord Melford was ordered to withdraw. My Lord Melford being gone to another Room, the late King said, *That it was no wonder he has had no Success in all his private Consultations, since he was by Authority betrayed, as my Lord Melford alleged; and that he believed now his Subjects of England would say indeed, That if ever he should return, it would be but to serve under a Master: And that for his own part, he did not expect to live so long, as to enjoy any Glory in this World; and that all he aimed at, was but to settle his Son in the Succession of his Crowns, and to unite him to the Affections of the People before his own Death: But seeing it was otherwise intended, he would submit to what God should order for him, and trouble himself no further*.



The Council then, under a great Consternation, requested the late King to take better Resolutions, and not cast himself down before he knew the Truth of the Matter; and that it would be worth while to consult the King of *France* about what my Lord *Melford* said: and if my Lord *Melford* had any such Orders, that there would be the less to say about it; but if otherwise, that the late King had need to alter his Measures, and his Secretary too. To which the late King said, *He would be satisfied better and further, and would attend his Most Christian Majesty to know his Pleasure touching the Matters aforesaid*, and ordered my Lord *Melford* to be called in to be further Interrogated; and likewise ordered the Clerk of the Council to take Minutes.

My Lord *Melford* being called in, was asked by the Lord Chancellor, ( that is, the late Lord Chief Justice *Herbert* ) how long ago it was since he had the Orders he said to be from the Court of *France*, to thwart the understanding betwixt the late King and his Subjects: He said, *it was about two Years*. Then he was asked whether it was a verbal Order, or an Order in writing: He said, *a verbal Order*. Being asked whether he meant the King of *France*, where he mentioned the Court; he said, *the King*. Being asked whether he went of his own Accord for Orders, or was he sent for by the most Christian King; he made a long Pause, saying, *That he had other Occasions to attend his most Christian Majesty: and laying the evil Consequences that may attend King James's Affairs, by entering into a Treaty with the People of England and Scotland, before his most Christian Majesty; and how much it would lessen the Interest and Honour of the King of France, to have King James Restored by his Subjects; and besides that, it would not only favour and further Heresy, and supplant the Roman Catholick Religion in England and Scotland, but as England and Scotland were the only Nurseries of Schism Heresy and Rebellion now in Christendom, that nothing would remove all three, but to restore King James by a Foreign Army, and put none in the Garisons but Roman Catholick Strangers thereby to keep Possession of the Kingdom, and the Succession of the Crowns to those whose Right it would be after King James's Death*. Upon those Considerations his most Christian Majesty ordered me, says my Lord *Melford*, to give his most Christian Majesty timely notice of what should be done from time to time.

Very well says my Lord *Herbert*; but, upon the whole Matter, did his most Christian Majesty order you to communicate the Secrets of this board to King James's Enemies, ay, or no? To which he said, that for that Matter he was left to his own Discretion. He was asked how many other Letters he did send, and to whom? To which he gave no satisfactory Answer. Then the late King said, that he took him for another Man; that he heard much of him, but would never believe any thing against him. The late King concluded, by saying, that he thought his Conversion raised Enmity against him; but now he said he believed his Conversion was but Hypocrisy, and prayed to God, to deliver all good Men from all such Converts. The late King ordered that my Lord *Melford* should be suspended, and that my Lord *Middleton* officiate in his Place. Several other Converts about Court are vehemently suspected, whereof some are commanded from Court.

It is reported that my Lord *Melford* should say, *That King James was under Obligation to the King of France, in Writing signed and Sealed, that if in case King James and the Prince of Wales should die, without Issue Male lawfully begotten, that then the King of France and his Heirs should succeed in the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and for that Reason King James should never be restored by his own Subjects, but by the French, who would keep the Possession, in order that the Crowns should be forth coming, as already conditioned for*.

The 31<sup>st</sup>. of the said Month of *May* the Prince of *Wales*, so called there, had two Convulsion-Fits upon him, which created a greater Consternation than my Lord *Melford*'s Letters: The late Queen took it so much to heart, that she swooned away at the sight, they were both very much indisposed, and the Recovery of the Prince much doubted. As soon as we have the French King's Answer touching my Lord *Melford*, it shall be published at large.

FINIS.

London, Printed by J. Darby, and Reprinted in Dublin. 1694.